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P. Boyce, Richard H.

Goodpaster, Andrew J.

Walker, Walter

Section 4 Tyne Tees
Television

C. A 3.03, 3 Great Brits

Security cited

NATO interview banned

By RICHARD H. BOYCE

PARIS, Dec. 26 — U. S. Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, supreme allied commander in Europe, ordered a British television interview with one of his aides withdrawn on grounds it endangered the security of the United States, Britain and other NATO countries.

He did so after the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) already had approved the filmed interview. And cancellation of the expected broadcast in England has stirred a row between NATO officials and British politicians.

The interview was filmed in October in Oslo, Norway by Tyne Tees Television of Britain. The man interviewed was Gen. Sir Walter Walker, commander-in-chief of allied forces in Northern Europe.

90 PER CENT CUT

After Gen. Goodpaster saw the film, he ordered more than 90 per cent of what Gen. Walker said cut out. Not enough remains uncut to make sense.

Authoritative NATO sources here said the "context" of the filmed interview "constituted a risk to the security of members of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO)." Besides the United States and Britain, most of the nations of Western Europe are NATO members.

The sources said Gen. Walker's statements suggested that the people in the 15 NATO member countries were not being told the truth about NATO's military readiness to resist possible Soviet aggression.

The general was quoted as saying: "People are ignorant about NATO . . . and complacent about the situation on the other side of the Iron Curtain . . . And this is a great temptation to the Soviets toward aggression, if we drop our guard."

"The greatest danger is that peace is being nibbled to death in conditions of a nuclear stalemate."

"We have got to do something about it, close this gap between what I, as a soldier, know to be the position on the ground, and what the man in the street is told by the politicians and thru his television."

"If we bury our heads in the sand and say it can't happen to us, then we are in for a shock. The way to prevent war is to show that you are militarily prepared and there is political determination and will behind that preparation."

The interview was filmed in Gen. Walker's office. Maps and charts on desk and walls were draped with sheets to prevent disclosure of classified information.

A CIA agent was present during the interview. He refused the cameraman permission to photograph placards labeled confidential, secret and top-secret, but Gen. Walker overruled him.

Several members of Britain's parliament have written Gen. Goodpaster and their own defense secretary asking for explanations and urging that a private showing of the film be made to parliament.